

THE RISE THE RISE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ADULT EDUCATION THE RISE

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Dear Colleague:

As the change-over in administrations begins to take shape, straws in the wind suggest future directions for adult education. In appointing Dean Rusk as his Secretary of State, President-Elect Kennedy said that he wanted the United States not only to build strength in a power struggle, but to be "concerned with the struggle against hunger, disease, and illiteracy..."

The new Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff, is best known as the man who cracked down on traffic violators in his state. However, he has supported education generally, and, in his acceptance statement, referred to the necessity for federal-state cooperation inherent in the complex operations of the HEW Department. Governor Ribicoff is a product of the public schools of New Britain, Connecticut, and much of his own education was secured through late afternoon and evening work. In a commencement address to the graduating adults of a Connecticut engineering institute, Governor Ribicoff expressed great sympathy for the part-time students, having done the same kind of study himself. (According to Drew Pearson, Ribicoff is holding over in the HEW post until an appointment can be made to the Supreme Court. In the event this takes place, Pearson predicts that Governor G. Mennen Williams of Michigan will take on the HEW job. Williams has been a strong supporter of education and has explicitly commented on the importance of adult education.)

Representative Stewart L. Udall of Arizona, who has been designated as Secretary of the Interior, is a strong supporter of federal aid for education and worked energetically for passage of the federal-aid bill during the last session of Congress.

With the convening of the 87th Congress, the National Defense Education Act will reach a two-year midpoint. The immediate decisions facing the Congress will be whether to continue the Act unchanged, make major amendments, or scrap NDEA in favor of a general-aid program. Congressional committees seeking guidance on this have sought the advice of educational groups. Speaking for NAPSAE, the Executive Secretary reported the Association's informal position on NDEA as follows: "The general position of public school adult educators is that we favor general-aid for schools from the federal level rather than earmarked funds. However, we strongly believe that all legislation for general-aid should be written in such a way as to include opportunities for the education of adults as well as opportunities at other levels of education."

The President's Committee on Migratory Labor, late in November, recommended a legislative program which would provide adult education opportunities, administered through state departments of education, to migrant agricultural workers. NAPSAE submitted a statement to the Senate Sub-Committee on Migratory Labor supporting the program. Legislation proposing to enact these legislative provisions will be put before the next session of Congress.



Although not a political post, after the next administration comes to power, a new Commissioner of Education will take office. On the first day of December, the present Commissioner, Lawrence G. Derthick, turned in his resignation to President Eisenhower. The day before, however, the Associated Press scooped the resignation story with one of far more interest to NAPSAC members -- that Derthick would take a post in the NEA as Assistant Executive Secretary for Educational Services. In the new position -- he expects to be on the job about the middle of January -- Derthick will have under his supervision services related to adult education, audio-visual education, rural education, international relations, safety education, and higher education. While Commissioner of Education, Dr. Derthick addressed the NAPSAC Conference in Cincinnati. This address has been widely quoted, particularly his reference to adult education as "one of our major undeveloped areas of education." As Assistant Executive Secretary for Educational Services, Derthick will maintain liaison between the NEA and the 25 affiliated departments -- NAPSAC included. In this spot, he will take over the duties formerly performed by Lyle W. Ashby. Dr. Ashby, NEA's Deputy Executive Secretary, has been operating in both capacities for the past 18 months.

There is much speculation in Washington as to Governor Ribicoff's probable choice for Commissioner of Education. An official announcement of the appointment may not be made until after the first of the year. Meanwhile, the present administration is busy preparing a goals-statement on adult education. S.E. Hand, President of NAPSAC, and R.A. Luke, NAPSAC's Executive Secretary, are members of an advisory committee to the Office of Education on adult education goals. They have been informed that the final draft of the statement is now being rushed to completion.

On the civil defense front, Walker Agnew, Director of CD Education for the U.S. Office of Education, continues to receive numerous requests from states wishing to receive grants and participate in the civil defense adult education program. Agnew has advised NAPSAC that only five states can be considered for grants for the 1962 fiscal year. At the present time, seven states -- Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, Nebraska, and California are taking part in the program.

With the exception of the fine programs in vocational agriculture, much "public school adult education" can be characterized as being more urban -- or now, suburban -- in its orientation than rural. In this, adult education is but a reflection of the social patterns which will put pressures on the new administration for the creation of a new cabinet post -- the Department of Urban Affairs. Legislation will be introduced in the next Congress to this effect. In the hearings on the bill, groups interested in both community development and adult education will have a chance to be heard.

The federal agricultural extension program is undergoing continuing analysis by those concerned with it. There is increased emphasis within agricultural extension on civic and public affairs. Some observers of the adult education scene detect a trend to merge agricultural extension with general extension and predict that the merger will be complete by the end of the 60's.

November 28 was a red-letter day for adult education. On that date, President Eisenhower's Commission on National Goals published its "Programs for Action in the Sixties." Six recommendations were made concerning education -- the final one being "Adult education should play a vital role stressing a new emphasis on education throughout life."

An attractive red, white, and blue covered paperback in the "high-brow size" entitled, "Goals for Americans," is now on the news-stands. "Goals for Americans" contains the official report of the President's Commission plus the supporting essays written by members of the Commission. The chapter entitled, "National Goals in Education," was written by John W. Gardner, President of the Carnegie Corporation. John H. Fischer, formerly Superintendent of Schools in Baltimore and now Dean of Teachers College, Columbia University, was one of the panel of three experts who consulted with Dr. Gardner in the development of the statement.

Important legislative developments have been taking place in the states. The Colorado Education Association, in a December meeting, recommended that state funds be provided for general adult education. The CEA also recommended that vocational education become a part of the school foundation program rather than a separate fiscal administration. In New York State, recommendations made by the New York Association of Public School Adult Educators and Dr. Erwin R. Van Kleeck, Assistant Commissioner of Education, on the certification of directors of adult education, have been forwarded to the Education Department's Bureau of Certification for review. The new requirements would apply to DAE's spending 50% or more of their time in adult education. They are similar to the certification requirements for elementary and secondary school principals in respect to degrees, experience, and the number of specialized college courses.

The Michigan Department of Public Instruction has recently issued a publication, "Planning for Public School Adult Education in Michigan," (Bulletin No. 428). This publication is the summary on the findings of the sub-committee on adult education of the Committee on Post Twelfth Grade Community Education appointed by Lynn M. Bartlett, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Henry J. Ponitz, Chief, Adult Education, Department of Public Instruction, was chairman of the 13-member sub-committee making the study. New York and California have recently issued similar reports on the role of the public school in adult education.

November was a big month for feature stories about public school adult education. With the sixth day of American Education Week officially designated "Adult Education Day," a heavy upsurge of feature stories about adult education became noticeable in the public press. The stories appeared either on November 11 (which was "Adult Education Day") or near that time. Many stories, which did not specifically mention American Education Week, were obviously inspired by the press and by publicity materials sent to local directors by the NAPSAE office. Material released under the auspices of NAPSAE's public information program, ("How Adult Education Changes Peoples' Lives,") appeared with local angle tie-ins in newspapers over the entire country.

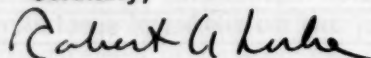
In Philadelphia, "Adult Education Day" stimulated a feature-length article in the newsletter of the Philadelphia Teachers Association on "Lifelong Learning," written by Robert H. Coates, local AE Director.

NAPSAE's major splash into the public affairs TV arena will be made early this year with a nationally telecast movie on, "The New Face of Public School Adult Education." Camera crews now are visiting Baltimore, Md., Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Amherst, N.Y., to capture episodes illustrating the many ways in which adult education programs of the public schools help form more effective citizens. The film is being produced in cooperation with NEA's Division of Press and Radio Service and will be shown over more than 200 television stations now subscribing to NEA's TV series, "The School Story." Production of the film is made possible by equal contributions from the National Education Association and a grant to NAPSAE's public information program from The Fund for Adult Education. The basic purpose of the film is to help correct the stereotype of the public schools as an agency only for remedial education and show instead some of the dramatic new programs now being undertaken in the area of liberal adult education and education for public responsibility.

The appointment of James C. Hagerty, press secretary to President Eisenhower, to succeed John Daly as Director of News for ABC focuses attention upon the probability that the TV networks will intensify their public affairs programing during the next year. CBS has created a News Executive Committee which will have greatly increased authority to move quickly in getting news and public affairs programs on the air. NBC, apparently happy with Chet Huntley and David Brinkley, will continue to roll along with them as their key newsmen into the new year.

Dean M. Schweickhard, Commissioner of Education in Minnesota, has been named by the Council of Chief State School Officers to a joint committee of school administrators, chief state school officers, school board members, and public school adult educators working on a national statement of goals and purposes of public school adult education. Dean Schweickhard replaces the late Allen Bateman, formerly Superintendent of Public Instruction in Utah. Executive bodies of AASA, NSBA, CSSO, and NAPSAE have now approved the statement "in principle." It is probable that this statement -- the first national statement from public school adult educators ever to be developed -- will be ready for publication by midsummer.

Cordially,



Executive Secretary

P.S. For an invigorating, historical analysis of education, you may be interested in Arnold Toynbee's "Education: The Long View," in the November 19 issue of the Saturday Review of Literature. One of his conclusions points towards the need to develop a concept of life-long formal adult education.

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